



REVISION OF CONISTON PARISH PLAN 2011/12

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BACKGROUND

Location

Coniston is a village in the county of Cumbria within the southern part of the Lake District National Park beside Coniston Water, the third longest lake in the Lake District.

Coniston grew as a farming village and serving local copper and slate mines. During the Victorian era it developed as a tourist location partially through the construction of a branch of the Furness Railway which closed in the late 1950's / early 1960's.

Today, Coniston is a popular tourist resort with a thriving village community. The nearest large villages are Hawkshead 4 miles away and Ambleside 8 miles away. Nearly 40% of the housing stock in Coniston is now second homes and holiday houses. There is a good range of local services and social amenities with a primary and secondary school, fire station, post office and shops with basic supplies. The main employment locally is agricultural and tourism with many other local businesses. Coniston has wide range of social and recreational opportunities. The population of the Parish is 1,058.

Reason for Revision of Parish Plan

The first Coniston Parish Plan was completed in 2004 and the current Coniston Parish Council has looked to revise and update it. The idea behind a Parish Plan is to form a village plan for the next 5 years based on Parishioners requests on what can be achieved to improve services and facilities within the village. Once the Parish Plan is completed it will act as an Action Plan for the Parish Council and other organisations.

The Team

The following people have been involved in this revision of the Parish Plan:-

Alastair Cameron	Member of Coniston Housing Group
Anne Hall	Coniston Parish Councillor, District Councillor, Member of Coniston Housing Group
David Coxon	Chair of Coniston Parish Council, Member of Coniston Housing Group
Jeff Carroll	Coniston Parish Councillor
Janette Carroll	Clerk to Coniston Parish Council

UPDATE ON EXISTING PARISH PLAN

The main issues identified in the Parish Plan completed in 2004 and progress to date:-

ISSUE	PROGRESS FROM 2004 to 2011	FUTURE
Affordable Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of 11 houses at Church Fields Close, Coniston • Completion of 8 houses at Butchers Moss, Torver • Work on reducing number of empty houses in the village 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Needs survey by Cumbria Rural Housing Trust / Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust will be carried out in September 2012
Loss of village homes to the second home market		
Youth facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crusaders continues • There is a Youth Club bank account containing some funds which is ready for a willing volunteer to use and re-open a Youth Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Youth Club set up by Grizedale Arts on Wednesdays for Secondary School aged children
Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Institute Committee with assistance from Grizedale Arts have been refurbishing and developing the Institute. A new kitchen was refitted in late 2011. The building continues to be a focus for events in the village. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Library will now be open more hours, a Honest Shop is up and running and there is the potential to employ a Project Manager
Provision of a Health Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a change of GP & no progress to date to allow GP to settle in. • Checks need to be carried out if a new health centre is a possibility and viable sites looked at. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion required with GP to assess requirements and what is best for the village
Parking and Traffic Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No 20mph speed limits have been introduced 	
Full-time Nursery Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coniston Childcare has moved premises & is now based at Coniston Primary School providing nursery care and before & after school care 	
Supporting Coniston Carer Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern now at current carers retiring and need for replacement carers 	
Gaining Broadband Internet Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadband in village and ultra-high speed broadband 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local parishes created a Broadband working group looking at upgrading Broadband services
Support for the First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Responders up and running and 	

Responders	received a grant from Coniston Parish Council in 2011.	
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Timeline for Consultation with Villagers in Revision of Parish Plan

September 2011

Various events were held to gain ideas from Parishioners on local issues from which to base survey questions:-

- Coffee morning at the Library – Saturday 17th September 2011 10am-12pm with refreshments
- Harrys – Monday 19th September 2011 8-9pm with snacks
- Fairtrade Coffee Morning – Wednesday 21st September 2011
- Sun Hotel – Friday 23rd September 2011 5-6pm

January 2012

- Online survey created with 30 questions for villagers to complete (paper copies were also available)

February 2012

- Parish Councillors distributed postcards to all households in the Parish with details of the survey for the Parish Plan

March – May 2012

- Collation of Survey Results – 131 responses

August – September 2012

- Completion of Revised Parish Plan

HOUSING

Comments from the survey:-

- Still felt there was a need for more affordable housing within the village and of this the majority wanted small developments of up to 4 houses on a site.
- Still concerns at the number of houses that do not have local occupancy clauses on them and the loss of these homes to the second market.
- Suggested locations for more housing – field opposite Sun Hotel, land between Doctors & Gate Side, Cat Bank, Lake Road opposite school playing field, family owned land sites, infill in the village
- Requests that any additional houses that are built meet the specific need within the village
- Requests the character of the village is maintained
- Concerns that a core of local people is needed to live in houses in the village
- Refurbishment of empty properties in the village to make them available for local occupancy

ACTION PLAN

Issue	Action	Leading Body	Priority	Timetable / Review Date
Affordable Housing	Ensure sufficient affordable housing remains in the village	Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust	Medium	Ongoing – review annually
Planning	Complete Coniston's Neighbourhood Plan	Coniston Parish Council with Lake District National Park Authority	High	6 - 12 months
Empty properties	Make properties available for local occupancy	Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust	High	12 months

Relevant Groups

Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust (see Appendix for further information)

VILLAGE EVENTS (held by external charities / companies)

Comments from the survey:-

- Overall seen as positive but concerns at lack of notice for local businesses and villagers and suggestions there could be more input back into the village

ACTION PLAN

Issue	Action	Leading Body	Priority	Timetable / Review Date
Lack of notice of events	Create a regularly updated village diary including events available online and on local noticeboards	Coniston Parish Council	High	Start as soon as possible

FOOTPATHS

Comments from the consultations and survey:-

- Lots of comments that paths need no improvements
- Some concerns at footpaths lack of maintenance, especially to Waterhead, Old Railway Line
- More signs for some paths especially where there are paths that would keep walkers & cyclists off the road.
- Concerns at amount of dog foul on paths
- Requests for some more off road footpaths e.g east side of lake to Brantwood, around Coniston Water, Torver cycle route / path to Broughton, Haws Bank to Bowmanstead
- Requests for the Brow Steps and path under Old Furness Road be cleared

ACTION PLAN

Issue	Action	Leading Body	Priority	Timetable / Review Date
Improvements to footpaths	Contact land owner with problem areas	Coniston Parish Council to advise land owners	Medium	12 months
More signage	Contact National Trust / Lake District National Park Authority to review signage	Coniston Parish Council to inform relevant authorities	Medium	12 months
Dog foul on paths	Contact South Lakeland District Council for advice on prevention	Coniston Parish Council	High	6 months
Paths not clear of vegetation / debris	Contact Highways and Home Housing to arrange clearance	Coniston Parish Council to contact relevant authority	Medium	12 months
New footpaths	Establish where new footpaths are required	Coniston Parish Council	Low	12 months

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Comments from the consultations and survey:-

- Only used occasionally but is vital to those who do use it.
- Some positive comments about helpful drivers
- Concerns at high cost, infrequency, bus times don't link in with other connections (trains / other buses) eg to Windermere, Kendal, no evening services, requests for route from Coniston to Ambleside on A593
- No evening service

ACTION PLAN

Issue	Action	Leading Body	Priority	Timetable / Review Date
Review bus timetables	Contact neighbouring parishes for any similar issues then contact local bus companies	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months

PARKING

Comments from the consultations and survey:-

- Results show a near 50/50 split between having and not having more car parking
- Concerns at cost of car parking & requests for more free parking
- More signs to Old Furness Road, Schools & Sports Club especially on special event days
- More coach parking, Lake Road verge suggested
- More parking for local people eg the Garth & local residents scheme
- Concerns at litter bins being taken out of car parks and subsequently litter being left

ACTION PLAN

Issue	Action	Leading Body	Priority	Timetable / Review Date
Lack of free car parking & coach parking	Evaluate current parking available	Coniston Parish Council with local car park owners	Medium	12 months
Lack of signs to current car parks	Request better signs to car parks	Coniston Parish Council with local car park owners	Medium	12 months
Lack of free parking for local residents in parts of the village	Investigate ways to increase parking for residents	Coniston Parish Council to evaluate	Medium	12 months
Litter left in car parks	Reduce litter left	Coniston Parish Council with local car park owners	Medium	12 months

HIGHWAYS

Comments from the consultations and survey:-

- Lots of positive comments on good service lately
- Concerns at Adams Bridge to Ship Inn – no pavement
- Reports of potholes in need of repair and drains requiring attention but few locations given
- Trees needing cutting back on roadsides
- Concerns at yellow line restrictions being ignored
- Suggestion of a Parish lengthsman
- Main bridge in the village suggestion of lights or traffic management
- Many dry stone walls in need of repair
- Concerns at the number of larger coaches visiting Coniston that are too wide for the roads

ACTION PLAN

Issue	Action	Leading Body	Priority	Timetable / Review Date
Lack of pavement at Adams Bridge to Ship Inn	Investigate area for a suitable solution	Coniston Parish Council with Cumbria County Council Highways	Medium	12 months
Potholes and drains needing repair	Find all problem locations and liaise with Highways	Coniston Parish Council with Cumbria County Council Highways	Medium	12 months
Verge maintenance and dry stone walls in need of repair	Find all problem locations and liaise with Highways	Coniston Parish Council with Cumbria County Council Highways	Medium	12 months
No regular maintenance of roadsides	Investigate employing a Lengthsman	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months
Yellow line restrictions ignored by motorists	Enforce yellow line restrictions	Coniston Parish Council to liaise with South Lakeland District Council and the Police	Medium	12 months
Coaches too wide for local roads	Investigate ways to improve access for coaches	Coniston Parish Council with Cumbria County Council Highways	Medium	12 months
Church Bridge traffic reports	Investigate road safety solutions	Coniston Parish Council with Cumbria County Council Highways	Low	12 months

FACILITIES

Comments from the consultations and survey:-

- There are facilities within the village that should be developed to ensure the future of: - swimming pool, the Institute, library, public toilets, post office, existing shops, sports facilities, schools, doctors surgery
- Facilities missing from the village – chemist, bakery, free ATM at the bank, 24 hour medical cover, David Watt’s shop, chiropodist, youth club

ACTION PLAN

Issue	Action	Leading Body	Priority	Timetable / Review Date
Lack of District Nurse and Health Visitor support especially with rural issues	Increase support from District Nurses and Health Visitor	Coniston Parish Council with Local Health Authority	High	6 months
Coniston Carers are approaching retirement and currently no exit strategy in place	Investigate how to maintain the Coniston Carer scheme	Coniston Parish Council	High	6 months
Low numbers at Coniston Primary School	Support the school to ensure its future	Coniston Parish Council with Coniston Primary School	Medium	12 months
Parishioners would like current facilities to stay within the village	Support local facilities where possible	Coniston Parish Council where appropriate	Medium	12 months
New facilities requested	Support new facilities if interest is shown	Coniston Parish Council where appropriate	Medium	12 months
Lack of support for businesses	Look into setting up Coniston Traders Association	Coniston Parish Council with local businesses	Medium	12 months
Lack of employment	Support new businesses that would create jobs for local people	Coniston Parish Council where appropriate	Medium	12 months
Potential loss of public conveniences in the village	Support the existing facilities	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months
Potential loss of swimming pool at John Ruskin School	Support the existing facilities	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months

INTERNET

Comments from the consultations and survey:-

- The majority of people use the internet frequently, are happy with their broadband service and would like ultra-high-speed broadband but would not be willing to pay a high additional cost. Not seen as a priority for most people and felt it would largely benefit businesses

VILLAGE INFORMATION

Comments from the consultations and survey:-

- Overall villagers happy with the information via Parish Newsletter, CDC community circular, Parish Council quarterly update and village noticeboards.
- Suggestions that more co-ordination between the different organisations would be helpful.
- Suggestions for more noticeboards
- Updated village website
- Parish Newsletter is seen as very positive method of communicating. Suggestion of putting Parish newsletter online for those who can access it this way which would reduce the running costs and also adverts included from local businesses.
- Suggestions of places for a village diary:- Institute, St Andrews, Library, Noticeboard by Co-op, website, hairdressers, TIC, Parish Newsletter,
- Requests that any diary is regularly updated.

ACTION PLAN

Issue	Action	Leading Body	Priority	Timetable / Review Date
Lack of co-ordination between different organisations	Encourage more communication between organisations	Coniston Parish Council facilitating better communication	Medium	12 months
No up-to-date village website	Create village website	Coniston Parish Council	Medium	12 months
No village diary of events	Create a village diary and keep it updated	Coniston Parish Council	High	6 months
Parish Newsletter not available online	Make Parish Newsletter available by e-mail / website	Coniston Parish Council to liaise with Church	Medium	12 months
Lack of co-ordination between organisations in an emergency	Create Community Emergency Plan	Coniston Parish Council	Completed	12 months

FUTURE OF CONISTON

Comments from the consultations and surveys:-

- Many comments requesting Coniston stays as it is today, thriving friendly community
- Keep young people in the village
- Reduce the number of holiday homes
- No major developments

CONCLUSION

The Parish Council will work on all the actions defined in this revised plan, with other bodies where necessary. Additionally, the Council will ensure the Emergency Plan is fit for purpose and include any additions as deemed necessary. The overall feeling is not to change the village. To maintain this, the Council will work with local businesses to assess their current needs as small businesses are threatened by high overheads and are vulnerable in the current financial climate. The businesses of the village are the face of Coniston. The Parish Council will encourage businesses to improve services, management and look at promotional projects to find ways of encouraging spend and competitive prices. An additional spend for every household of £10 - £20 extra per week in village shops could be enough to help their survival. The Council will look at improving the street scene and environment with litter picks, painting of railings and other works. The Parish Council will assist in co-ordinating a meeting to assess the future of the Coniston Carers Scheme. The promotion of Social Clubs within the village may assist to maintain clubs which help with not only fitness, but mental health. Further encouragement will be given to both Youth Clubs that operate in the village. Reviewing and monitoring the work at both primary and secondary schools to help ensure their future presence in Coniston. The Institute Committee may require assistance looking for funding bodies for an Institute Project Officer. Most villagers are happy with their environment but extra work needs to be done to protect it. Completing a Neighbourhood Plan is a priority for the Parish Council to ensure no overdevelopment takes place and any changes are in keeping with our "Rural Old Style Community" that is valued by locals and visitors alike.

We will work towards retaining village families that would help to maintain the viability of the village businesses and services in the future and support the voluntary services such as the carers. We should also consider encouraging new business ventures into the parish by making use of existing industrial sites such as the Far End Saw Mill if the site becomes vacant.

Distribution of Revised Parish Plan

- Available on Parish Council website – links sent to villagers via Parish Magazine, CDC circular, Parish Noticeboard & local authorities (South Lakeland District Council, Action with Communities in Cumbria, Cumbria County Council, Lake District National Park Authority, National Trust)
- Limited number of hard copies printed for villagers.

Completion of Plan

- Suggestion of holding an event for village & inviting those identified in the action plan

Finally:-

Thanks to everyone who has assisted in this revised Parish Plan, including those who filled in a survey or attended an event and gave their opinion. If you would like to assist in delivering this Parish Plan or would like further information, please contact the Clerk to Coniston Parish Council (8 Old Furness Road, Coniston LA21 8HU).

APPENDIX

Contact Details relevant organisations:-

Coniston Parish Council

c/o Janette Carroll, Clerk to Coniston
Parish Council
8 Old Furness Road
Coniston
Cumbria
LA21 8HU

Cumbria County Council

Headquarters
The Courts
Carlisle
CA3 8NA

South Lakeland District Council

South Lakeland House
Lowther Street
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4UF

Lake District National Park Authority

Murley Moss
Oxenholme Road
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 7RL

Coniston & Torver Community Land Trust

c/o Helen Dodd, Secretary
45 The Garth
Coniston
Cumbria
LA21 8EQ

Coniston Community Emergency Plan

c/o Janette Carroll, Clerk to Coniston
Parish Council
8 Old Furness Road
Coniston
Cumbria
LA21 8HU

Coniston Flood Forum

c/o Steve Emmett
21 Beck Yeat
Coniston
Cumbria
LA21 8HT

Coniston First Responders

c/o Helen Lace, Secretary
9 Ruskin Avenue
Coniston
Cumbria
LA21 8EH

Coniston Mountain Rescue Team

c/o Hayley Buckley, Secretary
Old Furness Road
Coniston
Cumbria
LA21 8HU